

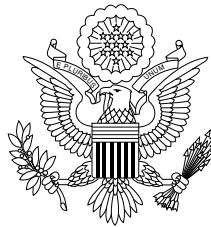
TRIBUTES TO HON. RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD

Russell D. Feingold

U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN

TRIBUTES

IN THE CONGRESS OF
THE UNITED STATES





Russell D. Feingold

Tributes
Delivered in Congress

Russell D. Feingold
United States Senator
1993–2011



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of the
Joint Committee on Printing*

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BIOGRAPHY

RUSSELL FEINGOLD was an independent voice for Wisconsin in the U.S. Senate—an effective legislator who worked across party lines, and a respected leader in both domestic and foreign policy.

Growing up in Janesville, WI, RUSSELL FEINGOLD learned the values that guided his work in the Senate: a commitment to fiscal responsibility, honest and responsive government, and standing up for hard-working families.

Senator FEINGOLD was proud to represent Wisconsin and carry forward the State's progressive tradition in the U.S. Senate. In order to make sure he knew what Wisconsinites were thinking, Senator FEINGOLD held open meetings known as listening sessions, in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties every year.

What Senator FEINGOLD heard in those sessions informed every issue he worked on in the Senate, from his bipartisan efforts to eliminate wasteful spending to protecting our Great Lakes and strengthening our national security.

Since he was first elected to the Senate in 1992, RUSSELL FEINGOLD built a record as a staunch advocate for Wisconsin's families. He fought against unfair trade agreements that have sent our manufacturing jobs overseas, and he worked to support new job growth by expanding and extending the jobs tax incentive he helped pass in early 2010. RUSSELL FEINGOLD made important progress on his E4 Initiative—dubbed E4 for its focus on the economy, employment, education, and energy—which supports Wisconsin's economy by boosting job creation, strengthening workforce development, and preparing our students to work in emerging industries. Senator FEINGOLD was also committed to strengthening public education, preserving clean air and water, helping veterans and military families, and supporting Wisconsin's farmers and rural communities.

RUSSELL FEINGOLD also worked for Wisconsin by helping people cut through government redtape. Senator FEINGOLD's office has helped Wisconsinites with everything from getting Federal benefits they are owed to finally getting a Purple Heart they earned, but never received, decades earlier. In

addition, Senator FEINGOLD strongly supported FIRE Grants to assist Wisconsin fire departments, and a wide array of other grants that helped Wisconsin communities.

Some of RUSSELL FEINGOLD's legislative achievements include:

The E4 Initiative.—In the first year of his E4 Initiative, an effort to create jobs while addressing our Nation's energy challenges, Senator FEINGOLD won some key victories. An E4 provision to boost green jobs by helping more buildings go green was included in the economic stimulus package. Another provision to prioritize Federal research funding for energy, water quality, domestic security, and transportation projects—top national priorities where Wisconsin has a strategic advantage—passed the Senate. The Senate also passed RUSSELL FEINGOLD's E4 provision authorizing the USDA, including the Forest Service, to partner with businesses, universities, and other interested parties to advance new energy technologies.

Jobs Tax Credit.—In March 2010, the HIRE Act was signed into law, which included a payroll tax break similar to the jobs tax credit Senator FEINGOLD introduced. Senator FEINGOLD worked to extend and expand the jobs tax break to help more Wisconsin businesses create jobs.

Paygo.—In 2009, RUSSELL FEINGOLD unveiled his Control Spending Now Act, which contains more than 40 proposals that together would reduce the deficit by about \$0.5 trillion, including a proposal to restore a statutory version of the pay-as-you-go budget rule, known as “paygo.” In January 2010, the Senate passed a version of the paygo statutory budget requirement as a way to help control spending.

Congressional Pay.—In May 2010, President Obama signed into law legislation championed by Senator FEINGOLD to cancel a pay increase for Members of Congress scheduled for 2011. RUSSELL FEINGOLD, who did not accept pay raises during his 6-year term, worked for years to try to end the automatic pay raise system. A proposal to end the back-door pay raise system was part of RUSSELL FEINGOLD's Control Spending Now Act.

Cancelling Old Earmarks.—In March 2010, the Senate passed Senator FEINGOLD's effort to cancel old, unspent transportation earmarks. RUSSELL FEINGOLD's bipartisan-supported amendment was based on a provision of his Control Spending Now Act and would have provided immediate savings of \$563 million.

Establishing New Vet Centers in Wisconsin.—Senator FEINGOLD led successful efforts to establish two new Wisconsin Vet Centers. In August 2009, a new Vet Center opened in Brown County, and another opened in La Crosse County in 2010. These centers help servicemembers transition back to civilian life and provide veterans counseling for one of the signature wounds of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, post-traumatic stress disorder.

Pell Grants.—RUSSELL FEINGOLD, a long-time proponent of Pell grants for college students, continued his efforts by supporting a fully offset measure to tie the program to the Consumer Price Index, which would help ensure individual Pell grant awards grow in future years.

Helping Family Farmers.—The USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach, an office Senator FEINGOLD helped establish in 2008, was awarded \$1.7 million in funding to focus on outreach, policies, and programs for farmers in need of assistance, including small farmers and beginning farmers and ranchers.

In addition to the landmark Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, also known as the McCain-Feingold bill, RUSSELL FEINGOLD's long record of accomplishment on reform issues includes his key leadership role in the enactment of the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, the strongest lobbying and ethics reform bill in congressional history, as well as work on many other reform initiatives.

Throughout his career, U.S. Senator RUSSELL FEINGOLD, a member of the Senate Budget Committee, worked to bring Wisconsin's historic tradition of fiscal responsibility to Washington. In the face of record deficits, in 2009 Senator FEINGOLD unveiled a comprehensive plan to help get our Nation back on track: The Control Spending Now Act. This legislation included critical reforms and new efforts to cut wasteful spending across the Federal Government. The bill would reduce the deficit by about \$0.5 trillion over 10 years.

A member of both the Senate Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees, RUSSELL FEINGOLD has worked to make sure the government focuses on our top national security policy—combating the global threat of al Qaeda. He has consistently advocated for a global approach to defeating al Qaeda and its affiliates. Senator FEINGOLD is also spearheading a Senate effort to ensure that the United States has better information and intelligence gathering around the world.

As chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on African Affairs, RUSSELL FEINGOLD was the Senate's top expert on Af-

rica issues, and called for directing critical attention and diplomatic resources to African countries, including those that are havens for terrorist activity. He was also an advocate for making human rights and the rule of law a priority in our relations around the world.

RUSSELL FEINGOLD was a strong advocate for the rule of law through his service on the Senate Judiciary Committee. He cast the Senate's lone vote against the USA PATRIOT Act, and fought to fix the act, as well as wiretapping legislation, to protect the freedoms of law-abiding Americans. RUSSELL FEINGOLD also played a lead role in protecting the rights of consumers and preserving access to the courts. As the chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Senator FEINGOLD worked to protect the civil rights of all Americans, including fighting against discrimination in the workplace and in the criminal justice system.

In 1917, RUSSELL FEINGOLD's family settled in Janesville, WI, where he was born to parents Leon and Sylvia on March 2, 1953. RUSSELL FEINGOLD graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1975, received a degree from Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar in 1977, and then went on to Harvard Law School, where he earned his degree in 1979.

In 1982, in his first try for elective office, RUSSELL FEINGOLD defeated a long-time incumbent and was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate for the 27th District. RUSSELL FEINGOLD was reelected in 1986 and 1990. When RUSSELL FEINGOLD first ran for the U.S. Senate in 1992, he won a tough three-way primary, and went on to defeat a two-term incumbent. He was reelected to the Senate in 1998 and 2004.

Senator FEINGOLD has two daughters, Jessica and Ellen. He is a member of Beth Hillel Temple in Kenosha, WI. He lives in Middleton, WI.

TRIBUTES

TO

RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD

Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *November 30, 2010*

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, 16 Senators will retire this year. There is a pretty big turnover in this body, but that is a lot of Senators at once. We are losing an enormous amount of talent, but, of course, we are gaining a lot of talent with the new Senators.

I wish to show my respect for those who have served, which I will do in a summary fashion because we are talking about 16 individuals with very complex and distinguished backgrounds.

One might ask, what are the characteristics of a Senator? There are a lot of different answers to that, depending on your background and attitude toward politics and government. First, I have always thought that one characteristic of almost every Member of the Senate is that he or she probably was a first grader sitting in the front row, hand in the air waiting to be recognized. This is an eager bunch or you would not have gotten here.

Second, it is a group of risk takers. Most people who end up in the Senate get here because a lot of other people who wanted to be Senators were standing around waiting for the right time to run. A lot of people who were elected to the Senate seemed to have no chance of winning at the time they decided to run, but the voters decided differently, and here they are.

Third, we are almost all professional and congenial. That is a big help. It is almost a requirement in an organization of 100 individuals who spend almost all their time with one another, who serve in a body that operates by unanimous consent, when just one Senator can bring the whole place to a halt, and whose job basically is to argue about some of the most difficult issues that face the American people. So it helps that almost every Member of the Senate is an especially congenial person.

Back in Tennessee, people often say to me it must be rough being in that job. They are awfully mean up there.

The truth is, I don't know of a more congenial group than the Members of the Senate. We begin the day in the gym. The next thing you know we are at a Prayer Breakfast, and then we are at a committee hearing. Then we are on the floor voting, and then we have lunch. It goes through the day until 7 or 8 o'clock, or sometimes later. We live together and we get along very well. We know and respect each other.

Not long ago, the Presiding Officer (Mr. Udall of New Mexico) and I were having dinner together with our wives. We were lamenting the loss of families who know one another, the way it happened when his father was serving in Congress and when I first came to the Senate to work for Senator Baker. And that's true. We've lost some of that. Still, there is an enormous amount of affection and good will here. You don't always get to be very close friends in this job, but you get to be very good acquaintances, and you learn to respect people for their strengths.

Senator Domenici said, when he left, that we don't do a very good job of saying goodbye here. That is true. As one part of saying goodbye, I wish to say at least one good thing about each one of the 16 retiring Senators. Much more could be said about each, of course. Mostly, I am going in alphabetical order. . . .

Senator RUSS FEINGOLD will be remembered for his strong stands—sometimes solitary stands—such as when he voted against the PATRIOT Act and went to work early on campaign finance. I thank him for our work together on the Africa Subcommittee, on which he has served during his whole time here. . . .

It has been my privilege to serve with these 16 Senators. We thank them for their service to our country. They have had a chance to serve in what we regard as the world's greatest deliberative body; it is a special institution. We will miss their leadership, and we hope they will stay in touch with us because they are not just retiring Senators, they are all our friends.

I yield the floor.

WEDNESDAY, *December 8, 2010*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the *Congressional Record* in tribute to retiring

Members of the 111th Congress, and that Members have until Thursday, December 16, to submit such tributes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FRIDAY, *December 10, 2010*

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleagues who are departing the Senate after distinguished service on behalf of their States and on behalf of the Nation. I have been privileged to work with these individuals, to learn from them, to collaborate and cooperate with them, and to, in some small way, help them do what they have done so well—represent their States with fidelity, with great effort, and to move the agenda of the Nation forward. . . .

Senator RUSS FEINGOLD—and this is said often, but it applies so accurately—is a conscience of this body. He is someone who came here to fight for the principles in which he deeply believes and would not deviate from that very serious challenge. He did it with skill, thoughtfulness, and gentility. I appreciate that very much. He was a champion for so many things—Pell grants, making sure the opportunity was still a watchword of this country. What he was most famous for was his efforts in campaign finance reform. Frankly, we will miss him dearly because of that.

There is a growing concern in this country that elections have become auctions, not about the quality of the candidates and their positions, but simply how much money can be funded and by how many different sources. So at a time when we have to confront again an even more serious challenge of campaign finance reform, we are losing one of the great voices and great minds in that effort. I know he will be helping us in this effort going forward, and I thank him for that. . . .

To all of these colleagues and their families, my deepest appreciation and my profoundest respect.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise again to recognize the service of another great Federal employee. This is a tradition that was started by our friend and former colleague, Senator Kaufman, and I am proud to carry on that tradition. But I want to first say that I appreciate the remarks of the Presiding Officer (Mr. Reed) about our colleagues who are leav-

ing this body, and I share his great respect for not only Senator Kaufman but all of the colleagues who are leaving the body at the end of this Congress. . . .

WEDNESDAY, *December 15, 2010*

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have served with RUSS FEINGOLD in the Senate for 18 years. There has never been a point where I did not know where he stood and what his core principles were.

Senator RUSS FEINGOLD came to the body in 1992 with one goal in mind: To always represent the people of Wisconsin—not the special interests, not the establishment. And he never compromised his principles, even though sometimes it made it very difficult for me. But he is a man of principle, and that certainly is the truth.

When RUSS first ran for the Senate in 1992, he famously wrote down five core promises he would always keep if he were elected. He wrote them on a piece of paper, and then he affixed this piece of paper and these promises to his garage door at his home.

The promises were: To rely on Wisconsin citizens for most of his contributions; to live in Middleton, WI, and send his children to school there; to accept no pay raise during his time in office; to hold listening sessions in each of the 72 Wisconsin counties each year of his term in the Senate; and to make sure that the majority of his staff are from Wisconsin and with a Wisconsin background.

It should surprise no one that he held true to each of these promises and surpassed every expectation that any Badger could have had for this good man who hails from Janesville, WI.

As quick as Senator FEINGOLD has been to voice thoughtful opposition to anything that would go against his core principles, he never hesitated to reach across the aisle and work in good faith with every Member of this body.

Because of his bipartisan efforts, our system for financing political campaigns is cleaner, more transparent, and more free of undue corporate influence. It is too bad the Supreme Court has so weakened the McCain-Feingold legislation.

In 2002, Senator Feingold spoke on the Senate floor during the campaign finance debate, and he spoke remarkable words about why he fought so hard for that legislation. He said:

Nothing has bothered me more in my public career than the thought that young people looking to the future might think that it is necessary to be a multimillionaire or somehow have access to the soft money system in order to participate as a candidate as part of the American dream.

It is a simple statement, but it truly helps us understand why the people of Wisconsin were always proud of their junior Senator—because he spoke simple truths, fought passionately for the middle class, and was able to always tap into what people were discussing over their kitchen tables every night.

RUSS FEINGOLD often stood in the minority to voice his positions that were not necessarily popular. He was a strong advocate for equal rights for same-sex couples even when it wasn't the popular thing to do, and he opposed the 2003 Iraq war from the very beginning and has stayed true to his feelings on this issue since then. That is the very essence of RUSS FEINGOLD. He stands on principle and his core beliefs even when it isn't convenient. He speaks the truth even when it ruffles feathers. As someone who has been elected to public office for a long time, it is very difficult to express to everyone within the sound of my voice what a special type of person RUSS FEINGOLD is. He is the type of person who will remain firm and steadfast in all the ways he serves. He is that special kind of person.

He has continued the tradition of some of the greatest Members of this body. He combines the tenacity of Paul Wellstone with Ted Kennedy's desire to always fight for the underdog. RUSS FEINGOLD has etched himself into the fabric of this body and for many of us will always be a part of our collective conscience. If we follow the example of RUSS FEINGOLD, we can rest easy at night knowing that when we stand on principle, we never have to worry about second-guessing ourselves.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the printing of tributes be modified to provide that Members have until sine die of the 111th Congress, 2d session, to submit tributes and that the order for printing remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THURSDAY, *December 16, 2010*

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a long-time colleague and friend of mine, Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, who will be leaving the Senate this January after 18 years of service. I would like to take this opportunity to wish RUSS and his family the very best as they embark on this new chapter in their lives.

Born and raised in the city of Janesville, WI, RUSS has dedicated the better part of his career to serving the people of his home State. Prior to his first election to the U.S. Senate in 1992, RUSS served as a Wisconsin State senator for nearly a decade. Throughout his career in public service, RUSS has proven to be a passionate and articulate advocate for the people of Wisconsin and their needs.

Since he first entered the Senate, RUSS has perhaps become best known as one of this body's most stalwart progressives. Indeed, on any number of issues, from campaign finance reform, to the Iraq war, to our work together during Senate consideration of legislation reauthorizing the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, RUSS has demonstrated a strong commitment toward ensuring that respect for human rights, the rule of law, and democracy remain cornerstones of American policy, both at home and abroad.

Over the course of his three terms in the U.S. Senate, RUSS has perhaps become most closely identified in the minds of many Americans with his work on campaign finance reform with Senator McCain. In 2002, when the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill was being considered, RUSS took a very courageous position in pushing legislation that, at the time, was relatively unpopular with some of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I was proud to join those efforts as the floor manager of McCain-Feingold, and would like to express my gratitude to RUSS for his strong and consistent leadership on that issue.

I have long appreciated RUSS' strong, principled stands on those issues, and have welcomed the opportunity to work with him over the years. I know that RUSS' commitment to justice, fairness, and the rule of law will be missed come January, and I would once again like to wish him the best as he leaves this institution.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to a number of our friends and colleagues who are ending their service in the Senate. Their contributions are too numerous to mention, therefore I would like to take just a few minutes

to highlight some of the memories of the Senators I came to know personally.

Some of the departing Senators I have served with for decades. Others were here for only part of a term. All of them worked hard for their constituents and our country. . . .

I want to thank Senator RUSS FEINGOLD for his 18 years of service in the U.S. Senate and his time in public service before that. Senator FEINGOLD has worked with me as an outspoken advocate for so many of the issues that I hold dear, such as protecting Americans' personal privacy and good government.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, there was a rush of strong executive branch moves for authority. Senator FEINGOLD repeatedly joined me and other Members in ensuring civil liberties and privacy protections of all Americans were observed. He was a leader in protecting liberties during debate over reforming the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. When the Department of Homeland Security was established, we worked to ensure that it had a strong official dedicated to protecting privacy. In 2007 I authored the POWER Act, which provided the Homeland Security Chief Privacy Officer with additional powers, and Senator FEINGOLD was a strong supporter, cosponsoring that bill which then became law in 2008.

I must also mention how proud I was to support Senator FEINGOLD on perhaps his most lasting accomplishment—campaign finance reform. The election process can be opaque, and it is full of more money than ever. However, in the last decade, many of the new campaign finance rules championed by Senator FEINGOLD have curbed many abuses which used to be common. While much work is left to be done in this area, especially with the recent Citizens United ruling, this country and voters owe a tremendous thank you to Senator FEINGOLD. . . .

In closing, the end of this Congress is bittersweet, with so many talented and dedicated public servants leaving this institution. All of them made a lasting impact on the Senate and on our country. *Mahalo nui loa*, thank you, for all your work.

Mr. CONRAD. I would like to pay tribute and recognize the accomplishments of my good friend Senator RUSS FEINGOLD of Wisconsin, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session.

Senator FEINGOLD has faithfully served the people of Wisconsin for the last 28 years, serving three terms in the Wis-

consin State Senate and three terms in the U.S. Senate. During all of that time, he has never forgotten who put him in office. Every year, Senator FEINGOLD has held listening sessions in all 72 counties of Wisconsin. The input he received in those sessions was his guide for every issue he worked on in the Senate.

RUSS FEINGOLD has also been guided by his tremendous intellect. After growing up in Janesville, WI, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to receive a Rhodes scholarship from Oxford University and a law degree from Harvard Law School.

To say that Senator FEINGOLD has been independent-minded in the Senate is an understatement. He has been a true maverick. He never let party or political pressure influence his efforts here.

The clearest example of this was his work on campaign finance reform with Republican Senator John McCain. After years of struggle, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, known to most as the McCain-Feingold Act, was enacted in 2002. Although the act continues to evolve and face challenges, it will forever change the landscape of political campaigns in this country. And Senator FEINGOLD has led other efforts to promote clean government, such as moving to electronic filing of campaign finance reports and fighting against lobbyists' gifts to lawmakers.

Senator FEINGOLD has also been an independent voice in the area of foreign policy. He spoke out eloquently against the Iraq war and was one of 21 Democratic Senators to vote against the Iraq war resolution. As a member of the Intelligence Committee and chairman of the Foreign Relations Africa Subcommittee, his opinion on matters related to Africa have carried an added weight.

Of course, I have known Senator FEINGOLD best from his work with me on the Senate Budget Committee. Since he joined the panel in 1997, he has been a powerful voice on the committee for fiscal responsibility. He was one of the leading advocates for restoring the paygo, or pay-as-you-go, requirement to ensure any new mandatory spending or tax cuts are fully paid for. In 2009, he introduced the comprehensive Control Spending Now Act, including several important spending reforms that have since been adopted.

It has been a true honor to serve alongside Senator RUSS FEINGOLD. He has made a tremendous contribution to this body, to his State of Wisconsin, and to our Nation. He will

certainly be missed. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I take a moment to say a few words about the junior Senator from Wisconsin, Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, who will be leaving the Senate at the end of this session. We have served together in the Senate, working for the people of Wisconsin every day since he was elected in 1992. Wisconsin is losing a powerful and thoughtful advocate that carried on the proud progressive tradition of Robert LaFollette.

RUSS came to the Senate by winning an upset election, running as an outsider. He famously wrote a promise to the people of Wisconsin on his garage door, and people responded to his sincerity. Keeping that promise has kept him close to the people of Wisconsin as he traveled to every county in the State once a year to hold a listening session. That kind of accessibility, and his pledge to raise his campaign money mostly from the people of Wisconsin, gives him a credibility and integrity that no one in the State can question.

Money and politics has always been an issue that RUSS felt passionately about. So it should be no surprise that his biggest legislative win was when he worked with Senator John McCain to put restrictions on campaign financing with the historic Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, better known as the McCain-Feingold bill. That legislation, like many of his stands over the years, didn't always make him popular with his colleagues, but it was the right thing to do to try and root out corruption and roll back the influence of the special interests. The American people will never have confidence in our system as long as they believe that a politician's support can be bought and sold. RUSS worked to restore confidence in our government and he should be commended for that.

He took a lot of unpopular positions over the years. Most notable was his sole opposition to the PATRIOT Act. He stood up for his ideals when it would have been easy to brush them aside. But that is the kind of person RUSS is. He was never willing to sacrifice his principles to do the politically easy thing. Our country is safer because of his work.

RUSS also has been a tough budget hawk, working tirelessly to bring down spending and give the next generation a debt-free future. He helped form the current lobbying rules that restrict gifts, employment, and perks that can be given to Members and staff by special interest lobbyists. These

policies didn't always make him popular around here—and sometimes caused problems inside his own party—but he was willing to buck the system when he felt he had to.

Janesville should be proud of their hometown son who has accomplished so much. He leaves the Senate, but I hope he doesn't leave public service. His character and intelligence are needed by his community, State, and country. We will miss him.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, true bipartisanship has been in sadly short supply in this Chamber recently. Sadly, at the end of this Congress, the supply of bipartisanship will be a little lower, because we will no longer have the benefit of RUSS FEINGOLD's presence in the Senate.

Senator FEINGOLD's service to the Senate demonstrates that one need not abandon strongly held convictions to reach bipartisan solutions. His example proves that disagreeing with someone on one issue need not prevent working with them on another issue. He has shown that one can act as a good steward of taxpayer dollars and a careful advocate for fiscal responsibility without leaving behind the working families who need us to stand up for them.

There are many examples of Senator FEINGOLD's search for bipartisan solutions, but justifiably, he is best known for the McCain-Feingold campaign finance legislation. The assault on this legislation in the courts should not distract us from its wisdom. This bipartisan legislation was based upon the inherently American and inherently democratic notion that elections should be decided by the will of the people, and not because of the influence of wealthy donors or moneyed interests. This is a notion that is not Republican or Democratic, not Liberal or Conservative. It relies not on party loyalty or ideological fervor, but on a sense of justice. That sense of justice is central to what RUSS FEINGOLD has brought to the Senate.

Likewise, the civil rights of American citizens are not a matter of party or ideology. I admire Senator FEINGOLD's unflagging commitment to those rights, and his efforts to find a reasonable balance between protecting our safety and preserving our freedom.

Now, Senator FEINGOLD and I have not agreed on every issue. While we both believed the Iraq war was a mistake, he believed we should respond by ending funding for the war. I disagreed, and believed that such a move would harm our troops in the field whom we should support. But I never doubted that Senator FEINGOLD came to his conclusions only

after giving careful consideration to the arguments opposing them.

We will miss RUSS FEINGOLD, miss his intellect, his independence, and his dedication. I will always call him my friend. The Senate will be poorer for his absence, but I know that the Nation will continue to enjoy the benefits of his service.

SATURDAY, *December 18, 2010*

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, with the close of the 111th Congress, the Senate will lose to retirement Senator RUSS FEINGOLD of Wisconsin—a proud progressive, a fearless reformer, and a genuine maverick in the very best sense of that much-abused term.

During his three terms in this body, Senator FEINGOLD has been a worthy successor to another great progressive reformer from Wisconsin, Senator Robert “Fighting Bob” LaFollette, whose desk I am proud to occupy, here on the Senate floor—and whose portrait is displayed prominently in Senator FEINGOLD’s office.

Like Senator LaFollette, RUSS FEINGOLD knows that it is not enough to be on the side of the angels. It is not enough to have our hearts in the right place. Progressivism, by its very nature, is a fight against entrenched corporate interests, entrenched economic privilege, and entrenched political power. If we are going to succeed against these forces, we have to know how to fight, and we have to be willing to fight. As our colleagues here in the Senate know very well, Senator FEINGOLD is equally skilled at building bridges across the aisle and tenaciously carrying the fight to those who oppose progressive change.

Most famously, we witnessed these talents during Senator FEINGOLD’s relentless campaign to pass the landmark 2002 Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, better known as the McCain-Feingold law. Senator FEINGOLD and his legislative partner, Senator John McCain, championed this legislation for nearly 2 years, overcoming stiff resistance from both parties, as well as from powerful interests outside the Senate. They faced countless obstacles but refused to give up. They won.

Again, in 2007, in the wake of the Abramoff scandals, Senator FEINGOLD played the key role in pushing through the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act, a tough eth-

ics and lobbying reform bill, which included stringent disclosure requirements and a crackdown on abusive practices by lobbyists.

As chair of the Judiciary Committee's Constitution Subcommittee, Senator FEINGOLD cast the Senate's lone vote against the USA PATRIOT Act.

For nearly two decades in this body, Senator FEINGOLD has been an outspoken champion of working Americans—fighting for safer workplaces, the right to organize, stronger public schools, better access to higher education and health care. He has always stood up for Wisconsin's family farmers and rural communities.

Senator FEINGOLD has accomplished important and even historic things during his tenure as a U.S. Senator. But, in my book, the highest accolade is simply that RUSS FEINGOLD is a good and decent person, with a passion for fairness, social justice, and honest government.

For me, it has been a great honor to be his friend and colleague for the last 18 years. Our friendship, of course, will continue—as will RUSS FEINGOLD's fight for the progressive causes we both believe in.

Our great friend Paul Wellstone used to say that “the future belongs to those with passion.” By that definition, RUSS FEINGOLD has a wonderful future ahead of him. I join with the entire Senate family in wishing him the very best in the years ahead.

Mr. CARPER. RUSS FEINGOLD may be best known for his work on campaign finance reform, but I admire his work very much on helping to strengthen the President's rescission powers. I think the seeds he has planted there will bear fruit maybe next year.

So to him and the others who are leaving us, I say what a joy it was to serve with them, and I especially want to commend and thank you for remembering them as you have done today.

MONDAY, *December 20, 2010*

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to offer some remarks on the departure of my friend, the junior Senator from Wisconsin. Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, the fierce and independent Democrat who has served the good people of his

State for 18 years, will be departing at the end of this session. He will certainly be missed.

Senator FEINGOLD was born in 1953 in Janesville, WI. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and then went to the University of Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship. After returning to the United States, he attended and graduated from Harvard Law School and then went back to Wisconsin to begin a career as a lawyer in private practice.

While RUSS was a long-time political activist, having volunteered and worked on a number of election campaigns, he began his career in public service in 1982 when he was elected to serve the first of two terms in the Wisconsin State Senate. Ten years later, he was elected to serve in the U.S. Senate, and he has been here ever since.

I don't think it is any secret that RUSS and I tend to disagree on most issues. But, I have always admired his commitment to his principles and his devotion to his beliefs. Now, I may give Democrats a hard time every now and then with my criticism, particularly when I find myself at odds with their agenda. But, I have never been able to fault Senator FEINGOLD personally because I believe he is a principled public servant who is simply trying to do what he believes is best for the country. He has been willing to do so even when it has been unpopular or when the majority of his own party was moving in a different direction.

RUSS has a reputation for being a contrarian at times. To be honest, I think he is probably proud of that fact. While he has certainly earned that reputation, I have always believed his actions and his positions—including those I have strongly disagreed with—have been rooted in his sincerely held beliefs.

Throughout his time in the Senate, Senator FEINGOLD has been a fierce, articulate, and effective advocate for his ideals. While he and I have rarely been in agreement, he has always had my respect and admiration. I want to wish him the best of luck in any future endeavors.

TUESDAY, December 21, 2010

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wish to take 2 more minutes to pay a compliment to one of my colleagues.

When I came to the Senate, I visited almost every Member of the Senate on the other side of the aisle. I had a wonder-

ful visit with the Senator from Wisconsin. We actually—although we are totally opposite in our philosophical leanings—had a wonderful time visiting together.

Senator FEINGOLD is my idea of a great Senator. I want to tell you why.

I left that meeting, and about a week later, I got a note from him first of all thanking me for taking the initiative to come and meet with him, but also a commitment that he would always be straight with me, that when he gave me his word and handshake, it would always be that way, and that I could count on him standing for what he believed in but knowing he would do the things we needed to do to get things done.

In the last 6 years in this Chamber I have watched one man of great integrity keep his word and hold to his values through every crisis and every vote. And every time it was taken where we had to come together to do something, this gentleman kept his character. He kept his word. He fulfilled the best aspects of the tradition of the Senate.

Although I often—most of the time—am on the opposite side of issues from Senator RUSS FEINGOLD, I want to tell you, he has my utmost admiration and my hope that more would follow his principled stand and his wonderful comity as he deals with those on the other side of the aisle.

WEDNESDAY, *December 22, 2010*

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague and friend, Senator RUSS FEINGOLD.

I have had the privilege of serving with Senator FEINGOLD since he and I were both elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992. Over the past 18 years, Senator FEINGOLD has been an independent, passionate advocate for his State and his Nation. He was consistently a voice of conscience in the Senate, never afraid to ask the tough questions or to speak out against policies he believed were flawed.

Over the years, Senator FEINGOLD has distinguished himself as a leading expert on foreign and domestic policy who is willing to work across party lines to get the job done, whether it was reforming our Nation's campaign finance laws or working to end the atrocities committed by Ugandan rebels in the Lord's Resistance Army.

I have had the privilege of sitting next to Senator FEINGOLD in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I have

been proud to witness how, as the chair of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, he has led the Senate in recognizing and addressing many of Africa's unique issues and challenges. He was one of the first to speak out about the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan. He has advocated for an end to the illicit mining of minerals that support armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. And he has placed a spotlight on drug trafficking in West Africa, the threat of terrorism in Somalia, and the effects of global diseases such as malaria on African populations.

Senator FEINGOLD is a great reformer, taking the lead on campaign finance reform and on the Army Corps of Engineers.

Senator FEINGOLD has been such an incredible champion for human rights, and I am personally grateful for his work on women's rights, particularly his commitment to combating violence against women and girls worldwide.

His passion, expertise, and dedication to these issues are unmatched and will be greatly missed.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, when the 111th Congress draws to a close, we will bid farewell to 16 colleagues who have collectively given more than 200 years of service to our Nation through their service in the Senate. These include seven of the Senate's most experienced Members. People like Chris Dodd and Arlen Specter who have each served five terms in the Senate. Kit Bond who has served four terms and Bob Bennett, Byron Dorgan, RUSS FEINGOLD, and Judd Gregg, who have each served three terms in this Chamber. . . .

RUSS FEINGOLD may have earned his place in history for his work on campaign finance reform but I will also appreciate him for his efforts to ensure that members of the National Guard and Reserve do not fall through the cracks when they return home with battlefield injuries. Senator FEINGOLD and I teamed on the Wounded Warrior Transition Act, a portion of which was included in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. I will continue to pursue the remaining provisions in the new Congress. . . .

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with each of the people who will leave this Chamber when we adjourn sine die. Each has made substantial contributions to their States, to the Nation, and to the Senate during their time here.